

claim 11 referring to the primary station transmitting the TX information and that the TX information originated from the secondary station is completely consistent and not confusing.

Furthermore, the primary station detects a frame timing from the base station and aligns itself with that timing. The primary station transmits synchronization information to the secondary station which aligns its timing to that synchronization information. As a result, the secondary station is effectively synchronized to the transmitted synchronization information of the base station. Accordingly, that claim language is also consistent and not confusing.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, applicants respectfully traverse that rejection based on the following.

Claim 11 recites "the primary station and the secondary station itself detected frame timing from received signals and aligns its transmitting frame timing accordingly..." In the present invention, the primary station slaves its timing to the base station. The secondary station in turn slaves its timing to the primary station. Accordingly, the primary station synchronizes its transmit timing to a frame timing of received signals of the base station and the secondary station aligns its transmit frame timing to the frame timing of received signals from the primary station. In Schlosser, the spacecraft does not synchronize its transmission time to the data terminal. The data terminals are slaved to the timing of the spacecraft.

Accordingly, the spacecraft does not detect a frame timing from received signals and does not align its transmit frame timing accordingly.

Furthermore, claim 11 also recites "the secondary station is effectively synchronized to the transmitted synchronization information of the base station via the primary station transmitted synchronization information." In the present invention, the secondary station is effectively slave to the base station via the primary station. In Schlosser, the data terminals are not synchronized to each other at all. They are time synchronized (Slaves) to the satellite further distinguishing the claims from Schlosser.

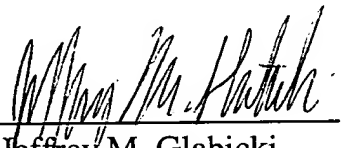
Additionally, applicants respectfully submit that the spacecraft of Schlosser is not transparent to the data terminals. In the present invention, the primary station mimics the capabilities of the base station. As a result, the secondary station could be communicating with either the base station or the primary station and it cannot tell the difference between them. In Schlosser, the data terminals do not communicate to each other. The data terminals only communicate with the spacecraft. The data terminals in Schlosser intend to synchronize and communicate with the spacecraft which will in turn communicate to other data terminals. The use of the spacecraft in Schlosser is not transparent to the data terminals, since neither terminal believes that it is directly communicating with another data terminal. Both data terminals are aware that they are communicating with the spacecraft.

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For the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable. If the examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned. Reconsideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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